



1746

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Takashi SHIMAZU et al.

Application No.: 09/930,989

Filed: August 17, 2001

For: FUEL REFORMING APPARATUS

Group Art Unit: 1746

Examiner: D. Scaltrito

Docket No.: 110389

#7
AS
10/15/03

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

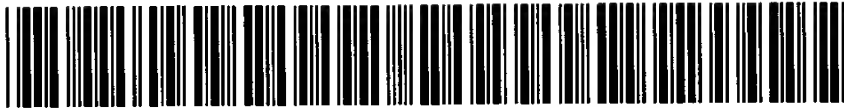
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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TC 1700

Sir:

In reply to the September 15, 2003 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-37 and 51-55, with traverse.

The Office Action asserts that the inventions are distinct because they are related as an intermediate-final product relationship. However, it is respectfully submitted that the final product includes all of the features of the intermediate product. In particular, claim 1 is directed to a fuel reforming apparatus having a fuel decomposition unit and a reforming reactor; and claims 38 and 39 are directed to a fuel cell system having a fuel cell, and a fuel reforming apparatus with the particular features of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 38 and 39 require all of the particulars of independent claim 1, since independent claims 38 and 39 encompasses the "fuel reforming apparatus". Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not shown any distinction in the application, because independent claims 38 and 39 require all of the particulars of independent claim 1.



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